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MEMORANDUM FOR: PP/NSC

SUBJECT: FE Comments - Draft Paper Political  
Implications on Afro-Asian Military  
Takeovers

1. The draft paper for the NSC on the "Political Implications of the Afro-Asian Military" with respect to the role of the United States in world affairs presents a seemingly well-balanced, general treatment of the topic, with no surprises.

2. One can find little to argue with in the paper which confines itself to a general summary of the obvious course open to the United States in dealing with authoritarian political regimes in Asia; namely, to make the best of the situation as it is (not necessarily as we would like it to be) by 1) helping to build in the nations of Free Asia as strong a bulwark as possible against the international Communist menace, and 2) also doing all that is possible to further democratic principles in those nations so that more broadly based regimes will gradually evolve. Detailed suggestions on how to achieve these United States objectives are evidently outside the scope of this paper for the NSC.

3. One question which might be asked concerning the paper is the following: While the paper by no means suggests that the United States assume a passive role vis-a-vis authoritarian regimes in Free Asia, does it fairly consider the possibility that the United States may, in certain instances, be in a position to play a quite dynamic role? In this connection, does the paper perhaps overstress the need for the United States to adjust to socialism in under-developed nations? For example, it would seem logical that the United States should not be at all hesitant in attempting to influence socialist-oriented regimes to abandon policies clearly recognized as detrimental to economic development.

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